

May 16, 2014

Weekly Views

Several communities throughout Indiana suffered damaged this week from heavy rain and strong winds. Offender work crews from the Branchville Correctional Facility joined other volunteers in several locations, including Boonville and other parts of Warrick County clearing debris. The offenders started early each morning, working until dark, to clean up following the storms. Members of the community welcomed the offender and thanked them for their help. (photo right)



Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) staff are ready to help out at the Olympics, the Indiana Special Olympics! Wabash volunteers will be stationed at the 12 Bocce Ball courts for the upcoming Summer Games. Stephanie Stewart and Dave Breen (pictured left) of Special Olympics (SOI) briefed volunteers at the facility. Rockville and Putnamville Correctional Facility volunteers will also join in on the fun this year. WVCF Maintenance crews, who made all new courts for Bocce in 2013, will install them at Wolf Field on Indiana State University's campus. Superintendent Richard Brown, taking part in the Torch Run to launch the Games, said he will be joined by seven other runners this year, raising funds for SOI.



Putnamville Correctional Facility (ISF) welcomed a touring class of criminal justice students from Indiana University in Terre Haute. Professor Shannon Barton-Bellessa and seventeen of her current pupils studying corrections got to see many parts of ISF such as the restricted housing units, the Prison Greyhound Program dorm, the receiving areas, as well as the various activities and opportunities the offenders have to aid in their re-entry. They had a great educational experience!

Representatives from the Indiana Canine Assistant Network (ICAN) visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to conduct an art project with service dogs currently being trained by PCF offenders. Works of art created by the dogs with the assistance of their handlers are utilized as part of an annual charity fundraising event conducted by ICAN. (photo right)



The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) held its annual Taste of CIF contest during Correctional Employees Week. The contest consists of teams that pick a theme and prepare food, props and costumes based on that theme. This year's theme was sitcoms. Entries this year were drawn from television series M.A.S.H., Cheers, The Adams Family, Alice, Batman, Hee-Haw and WKRP. The winning team, the Addams Family, served a buffet of food resembling eyeballs and fingers, dirt pudding, witches stew, roast beast, mice and witches brew. Superintendent Wendy Knight commented, "I look forward to this competition every year as part of our employee appreciation week, it's a great way for all staff to let their hair down and just have fun!" (photo below)



Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) Superintendent Mark Sevier announced the promotion of Tricia Pretorius to Assistant Superintendent. Ms. Pretorius began her career at MCF in 2000 as a Correctional Counselor. She then promoted through the ranks of Reentry to Unit Team Manager. She was instrumental in the start up of the PLUS Unit at Miami and is a member of the state committee overseeing the Inside Out Dads fatherhood initiative. Over the course of her career she has received numerous awards and been recognized by her peers for her commitment and her team-spirited attitude.

Sergeant Thomas Carte, Assistant Field Commander of Westville Correctional Facility's Emergency Squad, was selected as the facility's newest Correctional Lieutenant from among a very strong field of candidates. Congratulations Lieutenant Carte!

Two members of the Indiana Women's Prison Unit Team were recognized for their years of dedication and service, Dwight Graves, Correctional Case Worker with 30 Years, and Brenda Salinas with 20 Years as the Unit Team Secretary.

The Indiana State Prison (ISP), Westville and Camp Summit hosted a Community Advisory Board meeting at ISP. The topic of discussion was House Enrolled Act 1006. It was very helpful to have Tim Brown from Central Office, State Representatives Scott Pelath and Tom Dermody, and Senator Jim Arnold attending the board meeting to explain to the members the effect of the bill and what to expect in the future.

Pendleton Internal Affairs Officer and Correctional Police Officer Walter "Pete" Peterson was presented with a plaque by Superintendent Zatecky in recognition of over 30 years of service to the facility's Honor Guard. This accomplishment demonstrates the tremendous concern and compassion that Mr. Peterson has for IDOC employees and their families. Thank you Pete for your enduring dedication to this endeavor!

Correctional Employees Week sparked many smiles at Putnamville Correctional Facility. With everything from K9 demonstrations, golf scrambles, corn hole games, and an ice cream social in the courtyard, the staff were rewarded for being among the best correctional employees in the nation! A cookout and an awards assembly for the year were an added bonus to thank all the hard work that facility staff are responsible for! Thank you for the diligence brought to work every day!